

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of conducting an electronic online auction on behalf of a buyer, wherein the auction is between a plurality of potential bidders, competing to supply a lot having at least one product to the buyer, the method comprising:

receiving electronically at a server first bid information for a lot from a first bidder of a first remote site over a network, said received first bid information representing a first bid that is originally defined in a context of said first bidder;

generating a transformed bid -according to one or more first non-comparative bid parameters associated with the first bidder using a first transform function associated with the first bidder, the first transform function operative on the first bid information and the first non-comparative bid parameters, wherein one or more of the first non-comparative parameters and the first transform function being known only to the buyer;

storing information reflective of said submitted first bid, said stored information enabling a relative comparison of submitted bids, including said first bid, on a common competitive basis;

converting within the server the transformed first bid information into a second bid information defined in a context of a second bidder according to one or more second non-comparative bid parameters associated with the second bidder, using a second transform function associated with the second bidder, the second transform function operative on the transformed bid and the second

non-comparative bid parameters, wherein one or more of the second non-comparative parameters and the second transform function being known only to the buyer, wherein the second non-comparative parameters being different than the first non-comparative parameters, and wherein the second transform function being different than the first transform function; and

transmitting electronically the second bid information to the second bidder over the network, said transmitted second bid information ~~representing the first bid information of the first bidder in view of the second comparative bid parameters of the second bidder and~~ enabling said second bidder to view said first bid originally defined in said context of said first bidder in said context of said second bidder, such that the second bidder is able to view other bid information from other bidders including the first bidder in view of a specific format desired by the second bidder, wherein the first bidder and the second bidder are different seller parties, and the buyer is different from the first bidder and the second bidder.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises performing a linear transformation having at least one of a multiplicative adjustment and an additive adjustment.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises multiplying a received bid price specified in a local currency of said first bidder with a pre-defined exchange rate to yield a base currency bid price.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises transforming a received price per physical measure of weight or volume of coal into a standardized unit of value to the buyer of coal using multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments based upon one or more of the thermal content, percentage sulfur, percentage ash, percentage water, and hardness of coal of said first bidder, wherein the multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments are performed according to the predetermined algorithm defined by the buyer, and wherein the predetermined algorithm is not exposed to the first and second bidders.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises performing a non-linear transformation.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises transforming received bid information using a lookup table.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises performing a combination of linear, non-linear, and lookup table transformations simultaneously.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving first bid information for a lot from a first bidder comprises receiving transformed bid information.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein receiving first bid information for a lot from a first bidder comprises receiving a bid price in a base currency, wherein said bid price is originally defined in a local currency of said first bidder.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein storing information reflective of said submitted first bid further comprises generating detransformed bid information, and wherein transmitting second bid information further comprises transmitting said detransformed bid information to said second bidder.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises performing a linear transformation having at least one of a multiplicative adjustment and an additive adjustment.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises converting a base currency price into a bid price in a local currency of said second bidder using a pre-defined exchange rate.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises converting a received bid price specified in a local currency of said first bidder into a local currency of said second bidder using a pre-defined exchange rate.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises transforming a received price per physical measure of weight or volume of coal into a standardized unit of value to the buyer of coal using multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments based upon one or more of the thermal content, percentage sulfur, percentage ash, percentage water, and hardness of coal of said first bidder.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises performing a non-linear transformation.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises performing a transformation using a lookup table.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein generating a transformed bid comprises performing a combination of linear, non-linear, and lookup table transformations simultaneously.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting second bid information comprises transmitting second bid information to be transformed by said second bidder.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein transmitting second bid information comprises transmitting a base currency price to be transformed by said second bidder into a local currency of said second bidder.

21. (Currently Amended) A system for conducting an electronic online auction on behalf of a buyer, wherein the auction is between a plurality of potential bidders competing to supply a lot having at least one product to the buyer, the system comprising:

means for receiving electronically at a server first bid information for a lot from a first bidder of a first remote site over a network, said received first bid information representing a first bid that is originally defined in a context of said first bidder;

means for generating a transformed bid according to one or more first non-comparative bid parameters associated with the first bidder using a first transform function associated with the first bidder, the first transform function operative on the first bid information and the first non-comparative bid parameters, wherein one or more of the first non-comparative parameters and the first transform function being known only to the buyer;

means for storing information reflective of said submitted first bid, said stored information enabling a relative comparison of submitted bids including said first bid on a common competitive basis;

means for converting within the server the ~~first-transformed bid information~~ into a second bid information defined in a context of a second bidder according to one or more second non-comparative bid parameters associated with the second bidder, using a second transform function associated with the second bidder, the second transform function operative on the transformed bid and the second non-comparative bid parameters, wherein one or more of the second non-comparative parameters and the second transform function being known only to the buyer, wherein the second non-comparative parameters being

different from than the first non-comparative parameters, and wherein the
second transform function being different than the first transform function; and
means for transmitting electronically the second bid information to the second bidder
over the network, said transmitted second bid information ~~representing the first~~
~~bid information of the first bidder in view of the second comparative bid~~
~~parameters of the second bidder and enabling said second bidder to view said~~
first bid originally defined in said context of said first bidder in said context of
said second bidder, such that the second bidder is able to view other bid
information from other bidders including the first bidder in view of a specific
format desired by the second bidder, wherein the first bidder and the second
bidder are different seller parties, and the buyer is different from the first
bidder and the second bidder.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21~~2~~, wherein said means for generating
performs a linear transformation using at least one of a multiplicative adjustment and an
additive adjustment.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said means for generating multiplies a
received bid price, specified in a local currency of said first bidder, with a pre-defined
exchange rate to yield a base currency bid price.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein said means for generating transforms a received price per physical measure of weight or volume of coal into a standardized unit of value to the buyer of coal using multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments based upon one or more of the thermal content, percentage sulfur, percentage ash, percentage water, and hardness of coal of said first bidder, wherein the multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments are performed according to the predetermined algorithm defined by the buyer, and wherein the predetermined algorithm is not exposed to the first and second bidders.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21~~2~~, wherein said means for generating performs a non-linear transformation.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21~~2~~, wherein said means for generating transforms received bid information using a lookup table.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21~~2~~, wherein said means for generating performs a combination of linear, non-linear, and lookup table transformations simultaneously.

29. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said received first bid information is transformed bid information.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said received first bid information is a bid price in a base currency, wherein said bid price is originally defined in a local currency of said first bidder.

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29, further comprising means for generating detransformed bid information, wherein said transmitted second bid information comprises detransformed bid information.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said means for generating performs a linear transformation using at least one of a multiplicative adjustment and an additive adjustment.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said means for generating converts a base currency price into a bid price in a local currency of said second bidder using a pre-defined exchange rate.

34. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said means for generating converts a received bid price specified in a local currency of said first bidder into a local currency of said, second bidder using a pre-defined exchange rate.

35. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said means for generating transforms a received price per physical measure of weight or volume of coal into a standardized unit of value to the buyer of coal using multiplicative adjustments and additive adjustments based

upon one or more of the thermal content, percentage sulfur, percentage ash, percentage water, and hardness of coal of said first bidder.

36. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said means for generating performs a non-linear transformation.

37. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said means for generating performs a transformation using a lookup table.

38. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said means for generating performs a combination of linear, non-linear, and lookup table transformations simultaneously.

39. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said transmitted second bid information is to be transformed by said second bidder.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein said transmitted second bid information is a base currency price to be transformed by said second bidder into a local currency of said second bidder.

41- 73 (Canceled).

74. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for enabling a processor in a computer system to process bidding information in an auction conducted on behalf of a buyer,

wherein the auction is between a plurality of bidders competing to supply a lot having at least one product to the buyer, said computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having a computer readable program code embodied in said medium for causing an application program to execute on the computer system, said computer readable program code comprising

a first computer readable program code to receive electronically first bid information for the lot from a first bidder of a first remote site over a network, said received first bid information representing a first bid that is originally defined in a context of said first bidder;

a second computer readable program code to generate a transformed bid according to one or more first non-comparative bid parameters associated with the first bidder using a first transform function associated with the first bidder, the first transform function operative on the first bid information and the first non-comparative bid parameters, wherein one or more of the first non-comparative parameters and the first transform function being known only to the buyer;

a ~~third~~^{second} computer readable program code to store information reflective of said submitted first bid, said stored information enabling a relative comparison of submitted bids including said first bid on a common competitive basis;

a ~~fourth~~^{third} computer readable program code to convert the transformed first bid information into a second bid information defined in a context of a second bidder according to one or more second non-comparative bid parameters associated with the second bidder, using a second transform

function associated with the second bidder, the second transform function operative on the transformed bid and the second non-comparative bid parameters, wherein one or more of the second non-comparative parameters and the second transform function being known only to the buyer, wherein the second non-comparative parameters being different than the first non-comparative parameters, and wherein the second transform function being different than the first transform function; and

a ~~fourth~~ fifth computer readable program code ~~for~~ to electronically transmit second bid information to the second bidder, said transmitted second bid information ~~representing the first bid information of the first bidder in view of the second comparative bid parameters of the second bidder and enabling said second bidder to view said first bid originally defined in said context of said first bidder in said context of said second bidder, such that the second bidder is able to view other bid information from other bidders including the first bidder in view of a specific format desired by the second bidder, wherein the first bidder and the second bidder are different seller parties, and the buyer is different from the first bidder and the second bidder.~~

75. (Canceled).